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# Speech to the Daughters of the American Revolution

Winfield Scott Featherston (1819-1891)

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The Daughters of the American Revolution, Ladies and Gentlemen:-

The 19th Cen-

tury has been especially productive of material and industrial advancement. Science and the industries have had the attention of the World as is shown by a glance at History. This is peculiarly a commercial age. A nation's greatness and position among the nations of the world of today, is estimated by its possessions, its exports and imports. Unfortunately the same rule is applied to individuals as to Nations; and a man is judged too much by his monied possessions, and his success is measured by his accumulations, and not by his possession and development of those traits of character, which adorn society, and enoble mankind. Those traits whereby alone he becomes the real and true owner of any thing that is worth possessing. In a word it is sentiment and that is but the unfolding and development of those inward secret powers, we denominate patriotism or love of Country. ~~It is~~ It is peculiarly fitting that you when all seems to be in danger of being swallowed up in man's greed for gold, should point us to the higher and better qualities of mankind.

You as the lineal descendants of the founders of this government have a right to call a halt, and say to us, you are forgetting the principles upon which the government was founded. It was founded upon a love of Liberty, and patriotism and not upon a monied consideration. Your constitution says a perpetuation of the memory of the spirit of the men and women who achieved ~~the~~ American Independence. You can only do so by a cultivation and development of those traits of character which made Washington first in War and first in Peace and First in the Hearts of his Countrymen. It was love of Liberty and their country which prompted the patriots of '76, to endure the hardships of war and establish their independence. It was the same spirit which gathered under the Confederate Flag the most magnificent body of soldiers that the world has ever seen. It was this spirit that prompted them to deeds of bravery and heroism, that has written their eulogies in 625 battles of that gigantic struggle for a fundamental principle of this government. His story proves that in the men and women of this South land of ours this spirit has always been pre-dominant.



While a few degenerates unworthy of being termed Americans, are spending their millions in supporting Bankrupt Nobility, and rebuilding ruined palaces abroad, in seeking titles for themselves from Foreign Sovereigns, it is peculiarly fitting that you who proud boast is that you are of the purest American birth and lineage, should call attention to the spirit and principal upon which this government was founded, and commemorate the characters and lives of its founders. What is more calculated to inspire in us noble thoughts and noble deeds than the study of the life and character of noble men and noble women, and what country can compare with us in this legacy, and especially this South land of ours. "A land with a grave in each spot And a name each shall not be forgot." Women have always been the true patriots, It is through woman's influence and woman's teaching that man puts forth his best efforts. It is therefore to them that we must look for a perpetuation of all true patriotism and noble sentiments.

God created the land the sea, the mighty forests, and the lofty mountains the beautiful flowers, and in his own image man, but as the acme of all creation He gave us woman. And allotted to our loved Southland the fairest and noblest of her sex. Much has been said and much more could well be said of the courage and the patriotism, and devotion to principle of the men of this land of ours; but the theme for the gifted eloquence of the orator and inspired genius of the poet is her fair women.